

paration of this from the cane, dry weather is a necessity, as the refuse of the canes after being dried in the sun, constitute their chief fuel. The past season is considered to be the most unfavorable for sugar making of any that has been experienced for twenty or more years. Usually from the 1st of January till the middle of May very little rain falls, but since my coming here in February there has hardly been a week in which there have not been some rainy days, and for several week there has been rain almost every day. In consequence of this none of the Managers have succeeded in making their whole crops, while many are very far behind. So times are very dull here and will continue so for some time. I suppose this will not affect our work very much, as it is at present arranged, but it will probably interfere with our extending it as much as we would wish during the coming year.

SCHOOLS.

The condition of the two Schools under my charge is satisfactory, the average attendance in one having increased considerably, while the other keeps up its numbers and interest. The dry season is in some respects unfavorable for the Schools as many of the larger children are kept away to work. Many of the children are making rapid progress. Several in the Esperanza school are reading in the 3rd Book of the Irish National Series, while in Exchange, which was opened about eleven months ago, several are reading in the 2d Book. Many in both schools are able to write very well, and some have a considerable knowledge of arithmetic. They can also sing a number of English hymns in Bateman's collection as well as translations of them in their Hindustani hymn book. One of the scholars in the Esperanza School was married about a month ago. His name is Lutchman, he is about 11 or 12 years old, while his bride is 8 or 9. This is a common custom among the Hindus. He has taken his wife home to his father's house, and is now attending school regularly again.

The School on Sevilla, which I spoke of in my last letter as having been closed in January has not yet been re-opened, as the Estates with which it would be connected have been peculiarly unfortunate since, on account of the breaking down of machinery as well as from the wet weather, they have only been able to make a small portion of their crop, but I am in hopes that before long a School house will be put up and the School started again.

I hoped before this to have opened a School on Perseverance Estate, which is owned by Mr. Spiers, one of the supporters of the Mission, but it has had to be delayed for some time.

CALCUTTA VILLAGE.

About three weeks ago I made a visit to an interesting part of the field here. Two of the teachers accompanied me. It is a settlement of free Coolies, and is called Calcutta Village. This is one of the sections of the country that has been laid off in lots by the Government. These lots are granted to Coolies, who at the end of ten years service, prefer remaining on the Island, instead of taking a free passage back to India. In this region about 450 lots have been taken already. The object of our visit was to see if there was any opportunity of doing anything among them. They received us to all appearance quite cordially and seemed to be very anxious to have a School. There are 55 children who would probably attend and learn English, while several young men wish to learn to read in their own language, the Hindi or Devanagari. All that we saw promise to pay something towards keeping up the School, but it will not do to depend too much on their word. If we are able to station a suitable teacher among them, I think he would be able to do a great deal of good. One reason for my thinking so is that these men have given up the thought of going back to India. The missionaries in talking with many Coolies have found them almost or altogether persuaded of the truth of Christianity, but yet they fear to embrace it, because if they go back to India as Christians their friends would cast them off. But since these men have given up the idea of going back there will not be this trouble. Again, Hinduism in this case, is in a foreign land far from the sacred associations and holy places, which give it so much authority in India, so that although the older ones may hold to the past, yet it will be difficult or impossible to instill this same reverence into the minds of the young. Their Babujees or priests of course will attempt to do this, and in Calcutta Village there is one who is very earnest in the cause. He has now I believe about twenty disciples. I observed as we rode past his house or hut, four or five tall bamboos set in the ground, having little flags on top of them, while at the foot was a mound of earth raised something like an altar on which was scattered a quantity of flowers. We saw him afterwards, and he expressed a desire to have a School established, but I have no doubt he will make a good deal of trouble if he finds his authority is being lessened. So, although this field is one that is encouraging, there will be some drawbacks. The teachers on the Estates are protected, so that although they may have enemies among the heathens, these will not be allowed to injure them, but in this village, he will be surrounded by an unmixed Coolie population, and if these become inflamed with rum and bigotry, the